



FEMA

News Release

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FEMA NEWSDESK: 413-787-4335
MEMA PIO Contact: 508-820-2002
SBA PIO Contact: 404-606-0696

FEDERAL GRANT ASSISTANCE TOPS \$3 MILLION FOR TROPICAL STORM IRENE

WESTFIELD, Mass – As of 6 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 16, more than **\$3 million** in federal assistance has been approved to help individuals with disaster expenses for damage and losses caused by Tropical Storm Irene in Berkshire and Franklin counties from August 27 to 29.

To date, **1159** people from Berkshire and Franklin counties have registered with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and FEMA-contracted inspectors have completed **861** inspections.

The federal assistance includes **\$2,784,908** in housing aid to help homeowners and renters:

- Rent temporary housing for a limited period of time;
- Repair damage from the disaster to a homeowner's primary residence that is not covered by insurance. The goal is to make the home safe, sanitary and functional; and
- Help replace homes destroyed in the disaster.

Federal Other Needs Assistance (ONA) grants are limited to addressing costs not covered by insurance or other sources.

ONA grants to date, totaling **\$218,806**, will help pay for:

- Disaster-related medical and dental costs;
- Disaster-related funeral and burial costs;
- Clothing, household items, tools required for work and necessary educational materials;
- Clean-up items;
- Disaster-damaged primary vehicles;
- Moving and storage expenses related to the disaster; and
- Other necessary expenses or serious needs as determined by FEMA.

Individuals have until 10 p.m. on Wednesday, November 2, 2011 to register for federal disaster assistance. Call **800-621-FEMA (3362)** or (TTY) **800-462-7585** for individuals with a speech or hearing disability. These two toll-free numbers are staffed seven days a week, from 7 a.m. until 10 p.m. until further notice. Registration assistance is available in many languages.

Registration may also be done online, anytime, either at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or using a smart phone at m.FEMA.gov.

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FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.